

November 12th, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to express my concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

On September 24th of this year the FCC voted to change section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984. This section governs a key element of Community Access Television, the Franchise Fee. All towns and municipalities enter into contracts with cable providers to offer the residents television and internet services. For this opportunity the cable providers pay the town 5% of revenues each year, for the use of public way access (i.e. utility poles) for their cables and equipment. This money allows residents to have access to equipment, expertise, local and government programming, school committee and town council meetings, and other important information that our residents would not see on commercial channels. If this ruling is allowed to stand, the town would lose much of this income to new channel fees imposed by the cable companies.

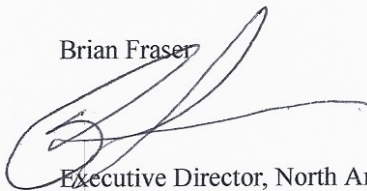
This will dramatically and negatively affect North Andover. North Andover Community Access and Media has been the vehicle through which governmental transparency has been achieved. People in North Andover can keep up to date with governmental events watching coverage of meetings and events. The busy lives of our North Andover citizens often make it impossible to attend these meetings and events, but North Andover CAM invites the entire community to be involved right from their living rooms, or offices, or even their mobile phones. This sharing of information is crucial to the community. Citizens have benefitted from the classes that are offered at the studio, where members can be creative, learn about the broadcast industry, and engage in dialogue about civil engagement from different perspectives. The community has benefitted from having a meeting space for town groups, as well as communicating information about the groups and their events. These are all wonderful aspects of North Andover CAM and they make North Andover such a special community. None of this will take place on commercial media, and with the local newspapers becoming more and more consolidated, Media Centers like North Andover CAM are becoming more and more important to communicate local information. This community programming will cease to exist.

Currently, North Andover has been planning and saving for the development of a new community access center for over 10 years. Now, the time has come that construction has started on a four thousand-square foot media center that will provide many additional and educational services to the public. Our community needs North Andover CAM. It opens up media literacy to anyone and everyone.

I implore you to reconsider these proposed rule changes!

Sincerely,

Brian Fraser



Executive Director, North Andover Community Access & Media

CC: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner